

Appl. No. : 10/036,041  
Filed : December 26, 2001

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-21 (Cancelled)

22. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid having at least 80% nucleic acid sequence identity to:

(a) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide having the sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said isolated nucleic acid encodes a polypeptide having the ability to induce chondrocyte redifferentiation;

(b) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide having the sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, lacking its associated signal peptide, wherein said isolated nucleic acid encodes a polypeptide having the ability to induce chondrocyte redifferentiation;

(c) the nucleic acid having the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein said isolated nucleic acid encodes a polypeptide having the ability to induce chondrocyte redifferentiation;

(d) the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid having the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein said isolated nucleic acid encodes a polypeptide having the ability to induce chondrocyte redifferentiation; or

~~(e)~~(e) the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203581, wherein said isolated nucleic acid encodes a polypeptide having the ability to induce chondrocyte redifferentiation.

23. (Currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 22 having at least 85% nucleic acid sequence identity to:

(a) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide having the sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said isolated nucleic acid encodes a polypeptide having the ability to induce chondrocyte redifferentiation;

(b) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide having the sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, lacking its associated signal peptide, wherein said isolated nucleic acid encodes a polypeptide having the ability to induce chondrocyte redifferentiation;

(c) the nucleic acid having the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein said isolated nucleic acid encodes a polypeptide having the ability to induce chondrocyte redifferentiation;

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(d) the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid having the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein said isolated nucleic acid encodes a polypeptide having the ability to induce chondrocyte redifferentiation; or

~~(e)~~(f) the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203581, wherein said isolated nucleic acid encodes a polypeptide having the ability to induce chondrocyte redifferentiation.

24. (Currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 22 having at least 90% nucleic acid sequence identity to:

(a) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide having the sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said isolated nucleic acid encodes a polypeptide having the ability to induce chondrocyte redifferentiation;

(b) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide having the sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, lacking its associated signal peptide, wherein said isolated nucleic acid encodes a polypeptide having the ability to induce chondrocyte redifferentiation;

(c) the nucleic acid having the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein said isolated nucleic acid encodes a polypeptide having the ability to induce chondrocyte redifferentiation;

(d) the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid having the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein said isolated nucleic acid encodes a polypeptide having the ability to induce chondrocyte redifferentiation; or

~~(e)~~(f) the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203581, wherein said isolated nucleic acid encodes a polypeptide having the ability to induce chondrocyte redifferentiation.

25. (Currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 22 having at least 95% nucleic acid sequence identity to:

(a) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide having the sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said isolated nucleic acid encodes a polypeptide having the ability to induce chondrocyte redifferentiation;

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(b) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide having the sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, lacking its associated signal peptide, wherein said isolated nucleic acid encodes a polypeptide having the ability to induce chondrocyte redifferentiation;

(c) the nucleic acid having the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein said isolated nucleic acid encodes a polypeptide having the ability to induce chondrocyte redifferentiation;

(d) the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid having the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein said isolated nucleic acid encodes a polypeptide having the ability to induce chondrocyte redifferentiation; or

~~(e)(f)~~ the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203581, wherein said isolated nucleic acid encodes a polypeptide having the ability to induce chondrocyte redifferentiation.

26. (Currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 22 having at least 99% nucleic acid sequence identity to:

(a) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide having the sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said isolated nucleic acid encodes a polypeptide having the ability to induce chondrocyte redifferentiation;

(b) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide having the sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, lacking its associated signal peptide, wherein said isolated nucleic acid encodes a polypeptide having the ability to induce chondrocyte redifferentiation;

(c) the nucleic acid having the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein said isolated nucleic acid encodes a polypeptide having the ability to induce chondrocyte redifferentiation;

(d) the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid having the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein said isolated nucleic acid encodes a polypeptide having the ability to induce chondrocyte redifferentiation; or

~~(e)(f)~~ the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203581, wherein said isolated nucleic acid encodes a polypeptide having the ability to induce chondrocyte redifferentiation.

27-37 (Cancelled)

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38. (Currently amended) A vector comprising the nucleic acid of Claim 22, Claim 25, Claim ~~5226~~, or Claim ~~5842~~.

39. (Previously presented) The vector of Claim 38, wherein said nucleic acid is operably linked to control sequences recognized by a host cell transformed with the vector.

40. (Previously presented) A host cell comprising the vector of Claim 38.

41. (Previously presented) The host cell of Claim 40, wherein said cell is a CHO cell, an *E. coli* or a yeast cell.

42. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid comprising:

(a) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide having the sequence of SEQ ID NO:2;

(b) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide having the sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, lacking its associated signal peptide;

(c) the nucleic acid having the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1;

(d) the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid having the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1; or

(e)(f) the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203581.

43. (Currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim ~~27-42~~ comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide having the sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

44. (Currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim ~~27-42~~ comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide having the sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, lacking its associated signal peptide.

45. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid comprising the nucleic acid having the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

46-64 (Cancelled)